

BAD JUJU

by

P. Cook

Gatortales@gmail.com

FADE IN:

INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

A wedding band rests in a woman's hand.

The hand slams the ring down on a glass counter.

PAWN GUY (V.O.)  
I guess you're not married any  
more, eh.

LEYLA (V.O.)  
How much?

LEYLA (32) slender, attractive, but with angry revengeful eyes stares at the huge tattoo covered PAWN GUY. He casually eyes the rings then shrugs.

PAWN GUY  
I'll give you fifty bucks.

Leyla scrunches her face in disbelief.

LEYLA  
Fifty bucks!

PAWN GUY  
Not many people want to buy used  
wedding rings. Bad juju...

LEYLA  
Cripes! I guess I'll take it.

LATER

Leyla heads towards the exit in the cramped dingy store while she stuffs her cash into her purse.

Something in a basket on the floor in a corner catches her eye. It's a Voodoo doll. A big one.

Leyla crosses over to the doll, picks it up. A female doll with a creepy gaunt face in a blue dress. Leyla fingers the doll then turns around, comes face to face with Pawn Guy.

LEYLA  
(startled)  
How much?

PAWN GUY  
Fifty.

LEYLA  
Fifty bucks!

PAWN GUY  
Got to be careful how you use it.

Leyla gazes at him incredulously.

PAWN GUY  
This cute little woman brought it  
in. Said she didn't need it any  
more. She got exactly what she  
wanted out of it.

LEYLA  
Which was...

Pawn Guy shrugs.

PAWN GUY  
Some guy she wanted.

Leyla's intrigued.

LEYLA  
Really?...

PAWN GUY  
Left his wife for her.

A mischievous smile grows on Leyla's face.

LEYLA  
I guess I'll take it.

INT. LEYLA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

On a dresser is a framed photo of Leyla and WARREN (35) an average man with a charming smile. Next to the photo lies a blurred picture of a young Latin woman. Next to it is the Voodoo doll, multicolored pins, candles and a small bowl.

Leyla enters. She puts on a blue sleep shirt.

Leyla sits down on a chair in front of the dresser. She appears excited in an "up to no good" kind of way.

She lights the candles. An evil smile on her face as she picks up the picture of the woman, holds it over one of the candles then lets it burn to ashes in the bowl.

LEYLA  
Take that you bitch. You're gonna  
get exactly what you deserve for  
stealing my Warren.

Leyla picks up a needle. Studies the doll then points the needle at the doll's heart. Changes her mind, jabs it into stomach instead.

LEYLA

I want you to feel as sick to your stomach as I did when Warren left me, for the rest of your life.

Leyla smiles, reads from an old book of spells then grabs another needle. Stabs it into the head of the doll.

LEYLA

I want you to have an accident that will forever disfigure your face so no man will ever want you.

Leyla grins. Grabs another needle, stabs it into the heart.

LEYLA

I want you to suffer eternal heartache after Warren leaves you.

She stares at the doll for a moment then pokes it with her finger a couple of times.

Leyla blows out the candles then heads to bed. She pulls the blanket up to her chin.

LEYLA

I hope she dies.

Her eyes well up.

LATER

The bedroom is dark. Leyla is asleep.

There's a sound of metal rustling in the distance. Like someone rummaging through a kitchen drawer.

Leyla stirs. Eyes flutter open. Confusion. She listens.

Nothing but silence.

She lies back down. Eyes shut. Back to sleep.

VOODOO DOLL (O.S.)

Wakey wakey.

Leyla's eyes fly open. Wide awake, she sits up.

The Doll stands at the end of the bed with a knife in its hand. It looks even creepier than before.

Leyla stares at the doll. Her jaw drops.

VOODOO DOLL

You in big trouble now.

Leyla blinks hard a couple of times. Can't believe it.

VOODOO DOLL  
 No one ever tell you not to mess  
 with voodoo?

The Doll takes a couple of steps closer to Leyla.

Leyla screams in horror.

VOODOO DOLL  
 Very dangerous when you don't know  
 what you doing.

The Doll moves closer. Leyla's quiet. Too scared to scream.

VOODOO DOLL  
 Bad things can happen. Like...dumb  
 woman put spell on herself.

Leyla trembles in fear.

LEYLA  
 ...What?

The Doll lurches forward. Stabs Leyla in her stomach. Leyla screams, looks down at herself. A maroon stain grows on the blanket.

VOODOO DOLL  
 You too dumb to see I am you.

Leyla slaps the Doll. It flies off the bed.

Leyla jumps out of bed. Clutches her stomach then hurries to get out.

The Doll gets up. It moves fast in front of Leyla. Trips her. Leyla goes down. The Doll slices her face with the knife.

Leyla screams. The Doll stares at Leyla. Tilts its head.

VOODOO DOLL  
 Poor dumb girl. Now you too ugly to  
 ever get a new man...Have to be  
 careful when you cast spell.

LEYLA  
 (sobbing)  
 I didn't know...I'm sorry.

VOODOO DOLL  
 Very sorry. Can't stop now unless  
 you break spell.

Leyla lies curled up on the floor. Cries.

LEYLA  
 Please. Tell me how...

The Doll laughs.

VOODOO DOLL  
I don't know how. I'm a doll,  
stupid!

The Doll aims the knife at Leyla's chest, lunges towards her.

INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

The Pawn Guy polishes a gun when Warren enters the store. He heads up to the glass counter.

PAWN GUY  
Can I help you?

Warren glances around the store.

WARREN  
I hope so. My girlfriend was in  
here a couple of days ago. She sold  
you a voodoo doll. Well, she wants  
it back now.  
(rolls his eyes)  
Says she's got a spell to undo.

PAWN GUY  
Ahh, the voodoo doll. I don't have  
it anymore.

WARREN  
Shit...she's gonna be very upset.

Pawn Guy gestures around the store.

PAWN GUY  
Get her something else to make her  
happy. We got lots of cra...things.

WARREN  
Like what?

Pawn Guy thinks for a moment then pulls out Leyla's ring.

PAWN GUY  
I have just the fix, man. Marry  
her!

Warren gazes at the ring.

WARREN  
I don't know. That's a big step.

PAWN GUY  
You love her don't you?

WARREN  
Maybe you're right...How much?

PAWN GUY  
Five hundred.

WARREN  
Five hundred!

Pawn Guy shrugs.

WARREN  
Think that will make her happy?

PAWN GUY  
It's a sure thing. They all want  
that. Tie you down. Put that ball  
and chain on. Claim you as their  
own.

Warren stares at the ring. Pawn Guy stares at Warren.

PAWN GUY  
Do we have a deal?

Warren ponders for a moment. Unsure.

WARREN  
I guess I'll take them.

FADE OUT: